

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 341

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1825

FOR ASST. SECRETARY TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, DR
SUBJECT: DOMINICAN REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

1. RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AMONG DOMINICANS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL, HAS BEEN UNIVERSALLY FAVORABLE. FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ MADE POSITIVE GENERAL COMMENTS TO ME ON THE SPEECH AS HAVE LOWER-LEVEL FONMIN OFFICIALS IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS. SENIOR DOMINICAN MILITARY PRAISED SPEECH IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DATT. THIS IS ENCOURAGING IN THAT MILITARY HERE APPEAR NOT TO FEEL THREATENED BY HUMAN RIGHTS ELEMENT OF U.S. LATIN POLICY, VIEWING THIS AS LARGELY A PROBLEM BETWEEN U.S. AND THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES.

2. SPEECH, WHICH WAS CARRIED HERE LIVE, IN COLOR, AND REPLAYED IN FULL DURING EVENING PRIME-TIME VIEWING HOURS, LEFT AN OVERALL "SIMPATICO" IMPRESSION OF THE PRESIDENT, REINFORCED BY HIS BRIEF STATEMENT IN SPANISH. FACT THAT FEW NEW SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WERE SET FORTH AND NO DRAMATIC NEW ERA OF US/LATIN DIPLOMACY WAS USHERED IN DID NOT PREVENT MORE SENSITIVE OBSERVERS FROM NOTING THAT FRESH BREEZES
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ARE INDEED BLOWING SOUTH.

3. DIRECTOR OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER, LA NOTICA. WHO HAS HARBORED DEEP ANTI-US SENTIMENTS STEMMING FROM OUR 1965 INVOLVEMENT, EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS ENCOURAGEMENT OVER PRESIDENT'S PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY IN REGION. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHETHER PRESIDENT COULD MAINTAIN POSITIONS ON

NON-INTERFERENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES
IN LIGHT OF "POWERFUL INTERESTS" IN THE US IDENTICAL VIEW
WAS EXPRESSED, APRIL 16, IN EDITORIAL IN DAILY EL NACIONAL
WHICH REFERRED TO "THE FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC FORCES IN WHOSE
MIDST CARTER MOVES", ADDING "PRESIDENT CARTER MUST HAVE
REALIZED, AS HAVE WE, THAT HE HAS DECLARED WAR ON THE SYSTEM,
THE FORMIDABLE 'ESTABLISHMENT'". CONTRASTING TO THIS SOME-
WHAT SKEPTICAL VIEW, IS THE MORE OPTIMISTIC INTERPRETATION OF
COLUMNIST MELVIN MANON WRITING APRIL 18 IN LISTIN DIARIO, ONE
OF THE MORE TRADITIONAL AND RESPONSIBLE DAILIES. FOR MANON
THE PRESIDENT'S NEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY REFLECTS CHANGES IN US
SOCIETY WHICH HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO SURFACE IN THE LINOWITZ
REPORT AND OTHER FORA. ALTHOUGH IN CONFLICT WITH SOME
FORCES IN THE US, THE PRESIDENT IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THOSE
WHICH ARE NOW DOMINANT AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY.

4. REFLECTIONS ON IMPLEMENTING STEPS WHICH YOU REQUESTED
WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTEL.
HURWITZ

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Message Attributes

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